

AKIRA

16

T.M.



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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 16

AKIRA UNLEASHED

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

The year is 2030. The world is rebuilding from World War III. In **Neo-Tokyo**, plans are being made to hold the next Olympics in the "old city"—where, thirty-eight years before, the first of the bombs fell. There, a band of teenaged delinquents led by **Kaneda** encounter **Number 26**—a child named **Takashi** who uses extraordinary telekinetic abilities to injure **Tetsuo**, one of Kaneda's close friends.

As a result **Kaneda** and **Tetsuo** become entangled in a power struggle between a mysterious military and scientific organization led by a man known only as the **Colonel** and an underground resistance group bent on putting a stop to the Colonel's activities.

Among the resistance, **Kaneda** meets **Kay**—a girl he alternately maddens and tries to seduce—and Kay's "brother", **Ryu**. Other important resistance members include Ryu's superior, the opposition party leader **Nezu**, and a powerful religious leader with strong precognitive

gifts, **Lady Miyako**.

The **Colonel** has a number of children like **Number 26** under his control. Each child possesses a distinct set of psychic talents and is identified by a number marked on the hand. At one time, **Lady Miyako** was **Number 19** in this series.

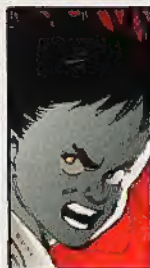
Another of the children is the mental giant **Akira**, so powerful that since the war he has been buried beneath the earth's surface, suspended in cryogenic sleep.

The Colonel's staff subjects **Tetsuo** to painful experiments which awaken tremendous telepathic potential in the boy, who is redubbed **Number 41**. Unfortunately, as his powers appear, a monstrous side of **Tetsuo's** nature also appears. Able to shrug off the most serious injuries, **Tetsuo** goes on a killing spree, murdering one of Kaneda's friends and even attacking **Kaneda**. Then **Tetsuo** sets out in search of **Akira**, whose powers he fears may rival his own.

The psychic children, who also fear **Akira's** power and worry about the disaster **Tetsuo** may unleash, use their talents to help **Kaneda** and **Kay** follow **Tetsuo** to the Olympic site where **Akira** rests.



Kaneda



Tetsuo



Kay



Akira



The **Colonel** follows with his troops and scientists. As **Tetsuo** easily repels soldiers armed with the most sophisticated weaponry, the scientists monitoring Akira's cryogenic sleep realize that even in hibernation, Akira's power is responding to Tetsuo's psychic energy. As **Kay** and **Kaneda** watch from hiding, **Tetsuo** reaches Akira's resting place, the cryonic chamber begins to crack from within. **Akira** emerges.

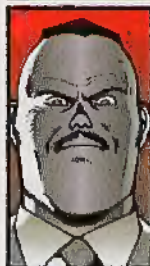
The paranormal giant is still dazed and weak with the aftereffects of his coma. **Kay** and **Kaneda** follow, as **Akira** and **Tetsuo** make their way to the surface.

Terrified of what may occur, the **Colonel** summons the powerful SOL military satellite and orders that its laser cannon be fired at **Tetsuo** and **Akira**.

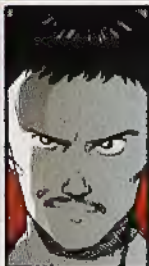
The two are separated by the blasts. **Akira** is saved by **Kay** and **Kaneda**, but **Tetsuo** is less fortunate. The laser strikes his left arm.

Following the disaster, Neo-Tokyo is placed in a state of military emergency. "Caretaker robots" patrol the streets, dealing harshly with looters and restoring order. The **Colonel** successfully conceals the truth about what has occurred despite leaks to the media. But he is discredited and made a scapegoat following the disaster. The **Colonel** decides to use the emergency as an excuse to hunt down and utterly destroy the resistance.

Kay and **Kaneda** take shelter with **Chiyoko**, a formidable woman in the resistance. **Nezu**, planning to exploit **Akira** for his own purposes, has **Kay** bring the



The Colonel



Ryu



Lady Miyako



Nezu

child to him and orders his staff to kill the three resistance fighters. They manage to escape and go to Nezu's house, where **Akira** is hidden. By the time **Nezu** arrives home, the government has been overthrown by the Colonel's inner circle, and a provisional military regime is in place.

Kaneda, Kay, and Chiyoko manage to free **Akira**. Only to have him stolen from them again, this time by **Sakaki**—leader of a trio of young psychics trained in techniques of espionage and infiltration. Her partners, **Miki** and **Mozu**, and she are working covertly for **Lady Miyako**, trying to avert the catastrophe the great psychic fears Nezu's betrayal may cause. The **Colonel** has also come on the scene, with his troops and his gifted children, and is frantically trying to find **Akira**—before he fully awakens. Mayhem erupts, with **Kaneda, Kay, and Chiyoko** in the thick of it. **Nezu** corners **Sakaki** and **Akira**, but before **Nezu** can do them any harm, **Miki** sacrifices her life, enabling the pair to escape. Enraged, **Nezu** orders his soldiers to bring them back, dead or alive.

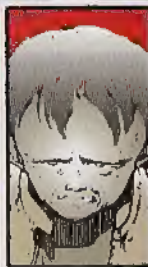
On the Colonel's orders, **Takashi** corners **Mozu**. When she refuses to reveal the name of her teacher, he kills her during a psychic showdown. **Sakaki** hides **Akira** in a dumpster, planning to go back for him after she has evaded their pursuers. Instead, the boy is found by **Ryu**, who is completely unaware of Akira's identity until they encounter **Nezu**. **Nezu** blurts out the child's name. By this time, **Ryu** has ample evidence that his former master has repeatedly double-crossed the entire resistance movement and **Ryu** personally. When **Nezu** draws a weapon and attempts to kill **Ryu** and **Akira**, **Ryu** shoots him.

Sakaki—traumatized by her friends' deaths, but determined to complete her mission—catches up with **Ryu**. She beats him in a fight, and again regains control of **Akira**. However, **Kaneda, Kay, and Chiyoko** arrive in time for **Kaneda** to knock **Sakaki** for a loop and prevent her escape.

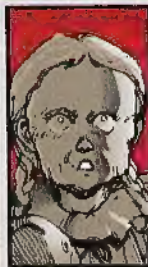
Then all of them—**Akira** and the fighters from all the splinter groups within the resistance—are cornered by the **Colonel**, his children, and the army.



Chiyoko



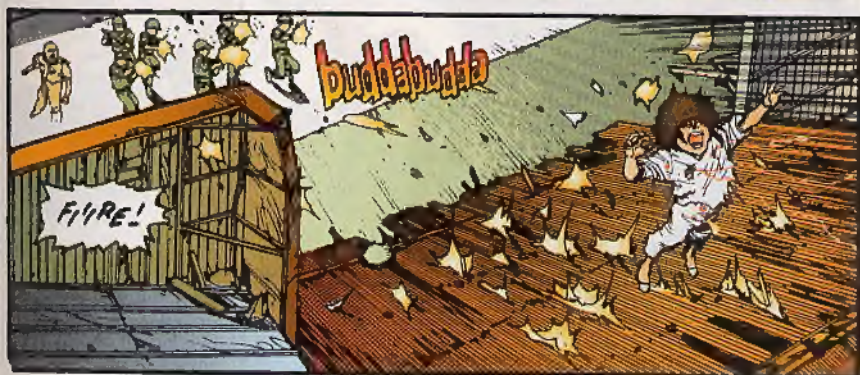
Takashi

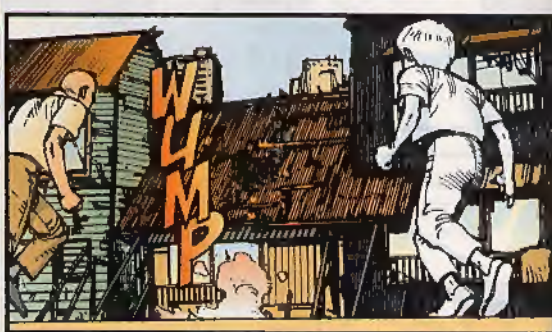
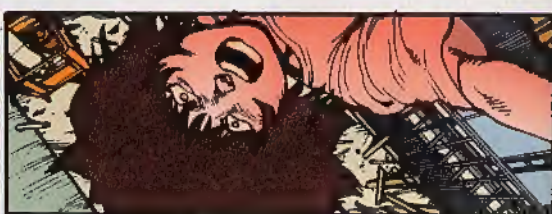


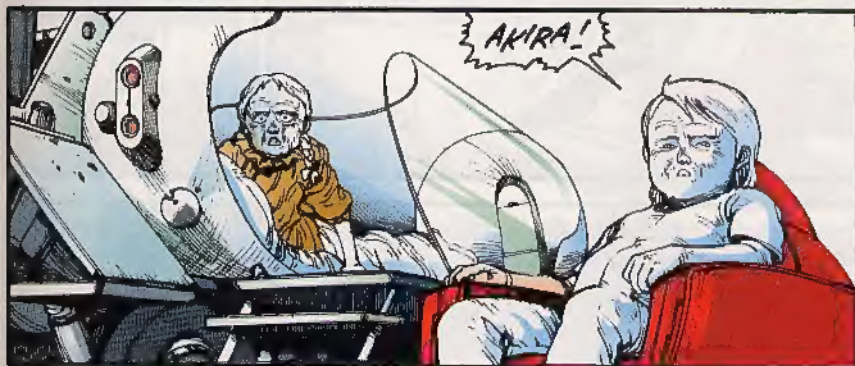
Kiyoko

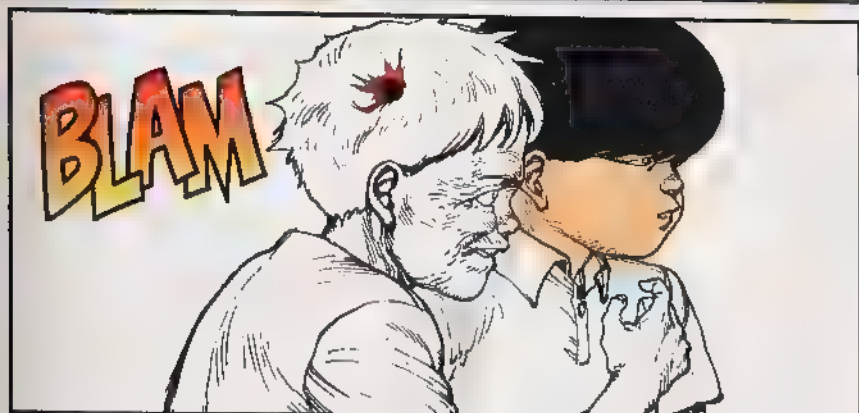
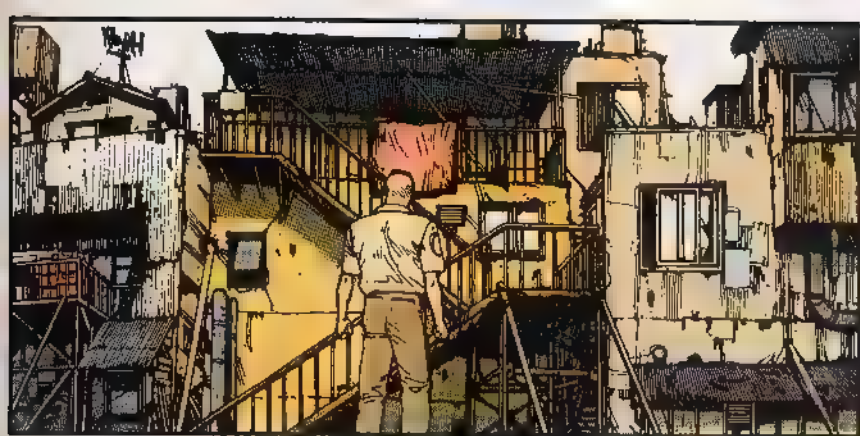


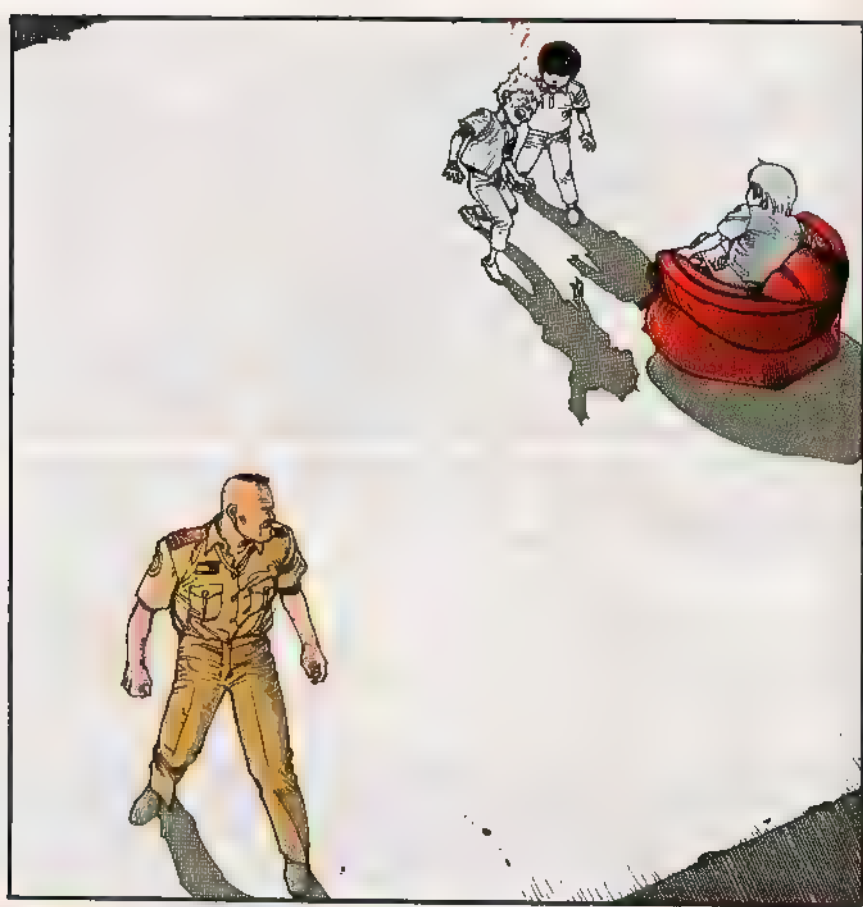
Sakaki

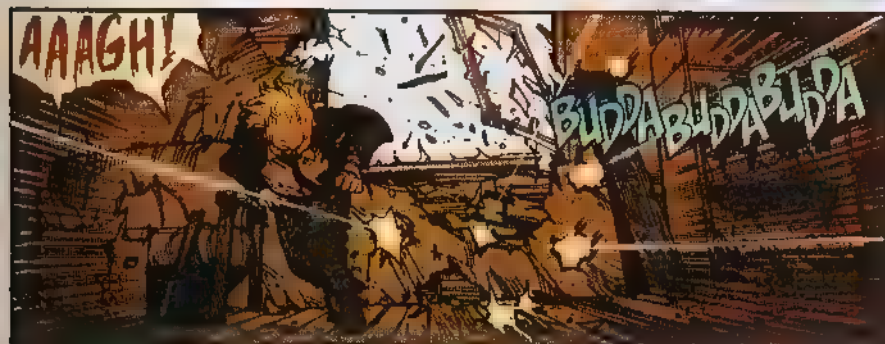
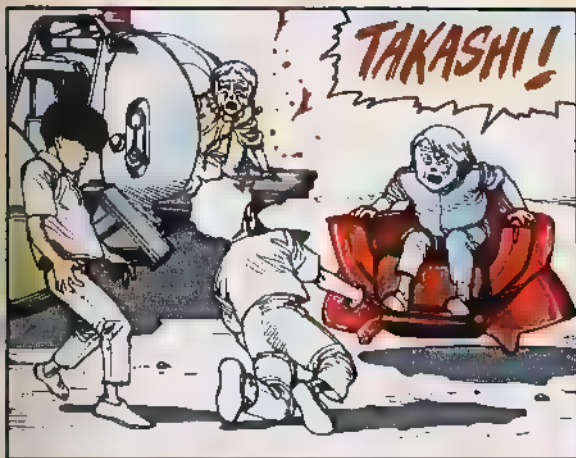


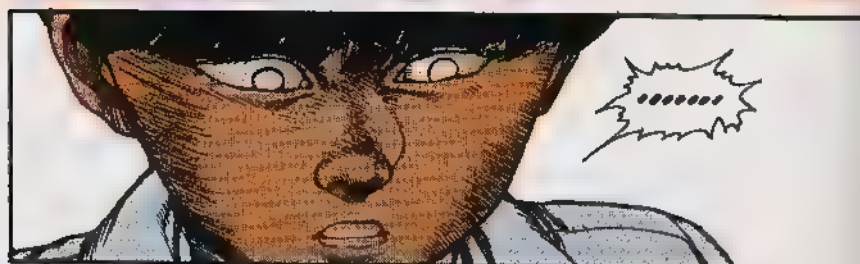


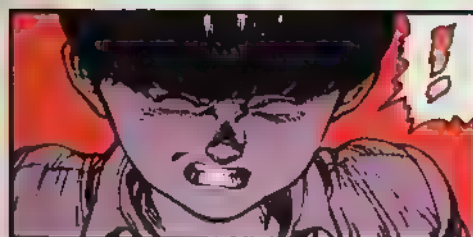
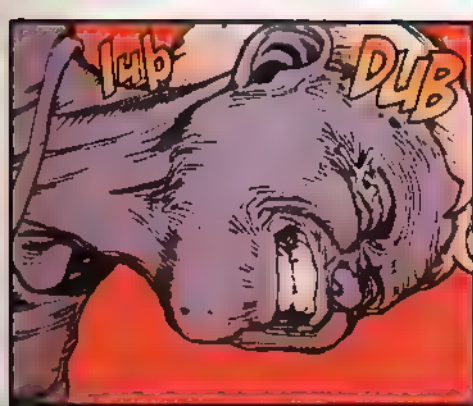


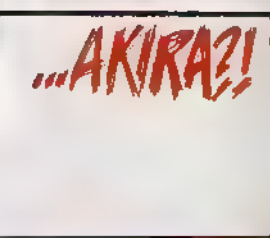
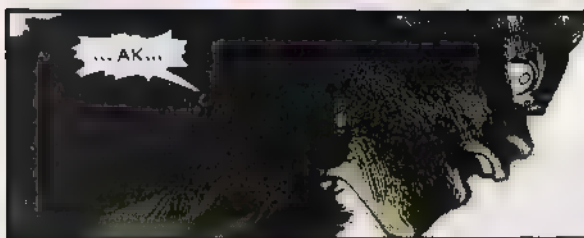
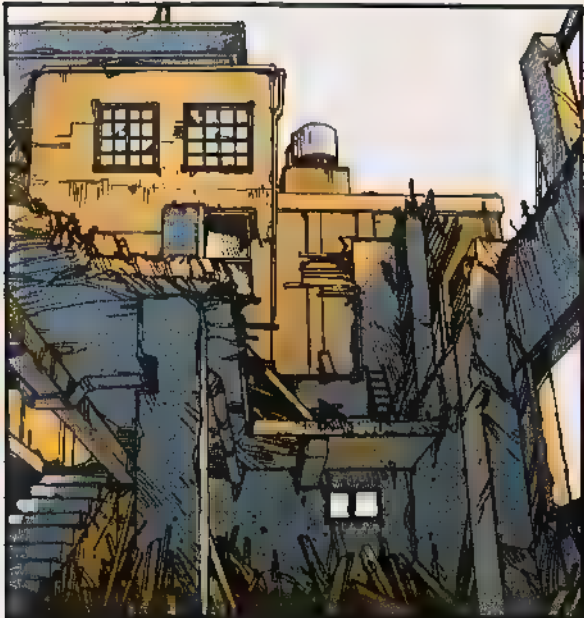












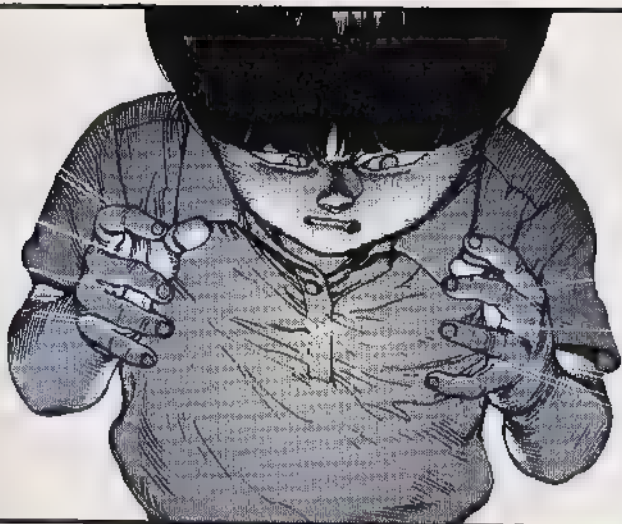


ARRRRGH!



I DIDN'T THINK
HE HAD A SCREAM
LIKE THAT IN
HIM.





NO, AKIRA!

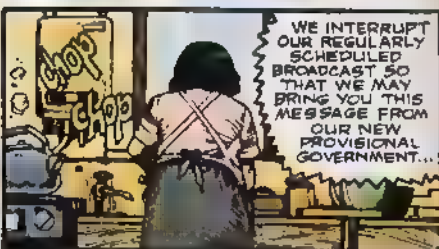
STOP IT!

YOU
MUSTN'T!



ONE,
TWO,
THREE,
FOUR

...THREE,
FOUR...



MICHIKO! HURRY UP
OR YOU'LL BE LATE
FOR SCHOOL!

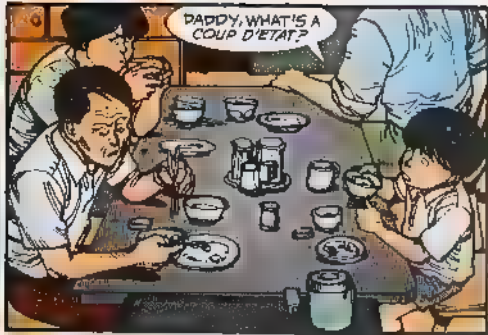
I CAN'T FIND
MY SOCK!



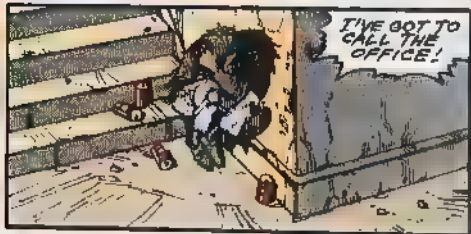
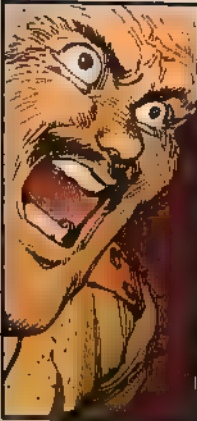


...TO REMAIN
IN THEIR
HOMES UNTIL
FURTHER
NOTICE.

ALL PUBLIC AND
MEDICAL FACILI-
TIES, AT BOTH
THE NATIONAL
AND THE LOCAL
LEVELS...



DADDY, WHAT'S A
COUP D'ETAT?

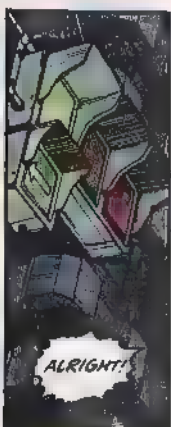


I'VE GOT TO
CALL THE
OFFICE!

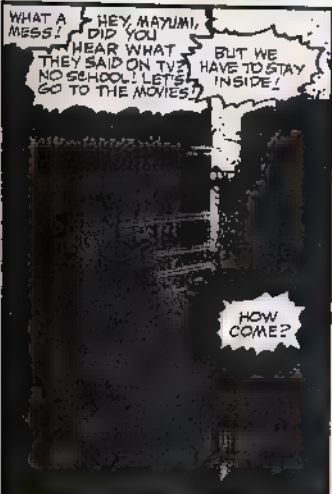


CAN I STAY
HOME FROM
SCHOOL?

CAN I,
DADDY?
HUNK?
PLEASE!



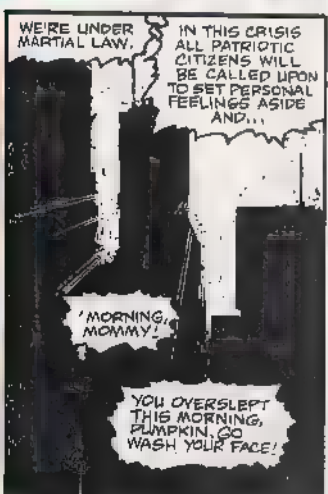
ALRIGHT!



WHAT A
MESS!
HEY, MAYUMI,
DID YOU
HEAR WHAT
THEY SAID ON TV?
NO SCHOOL! LET'S
GO TO THE MOVIES!

BUT WE
HAVE TO STAY
INSIDE!

HOW
COME?

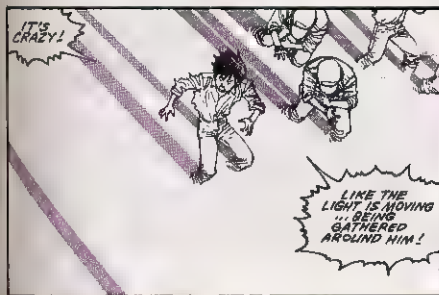
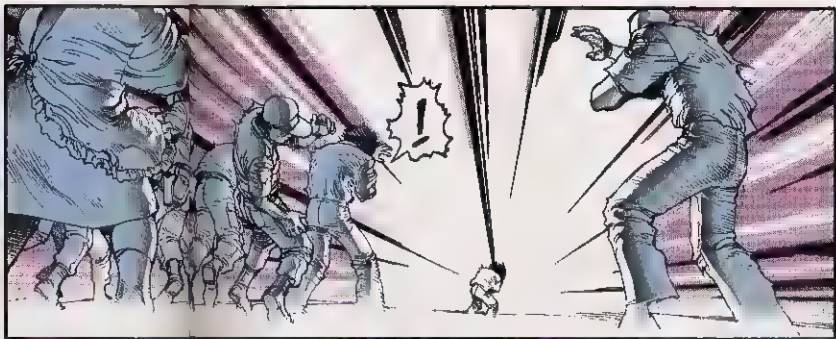
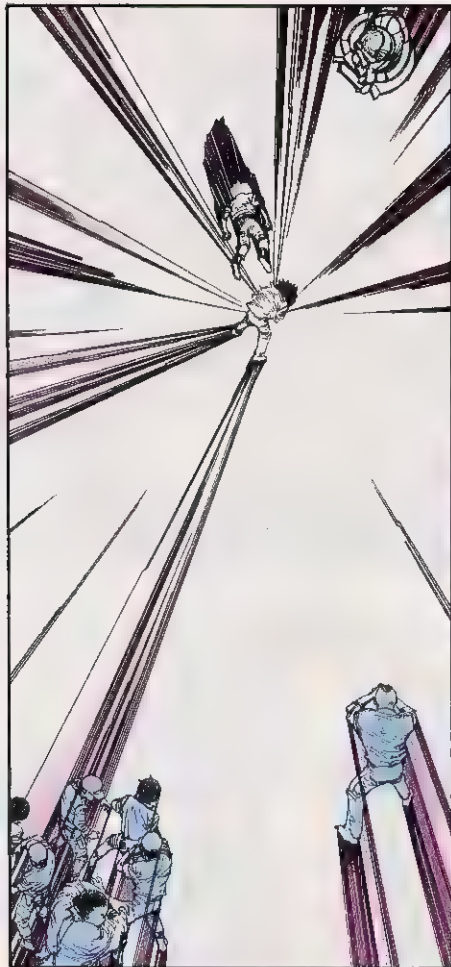


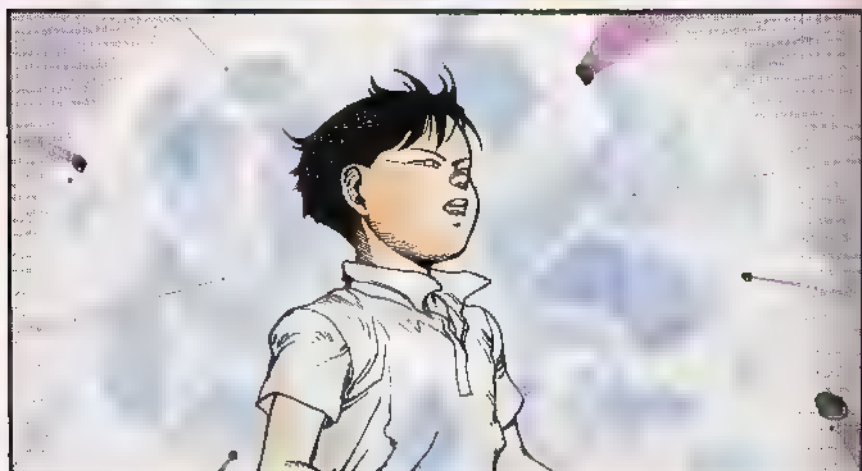
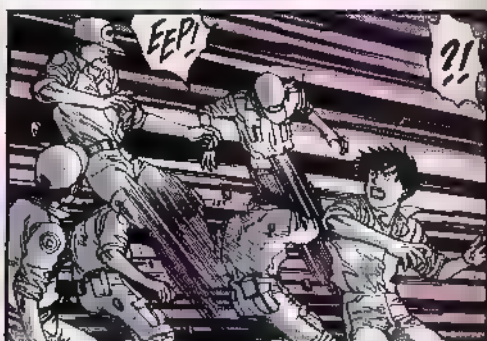
WE'RE UNDER
MARTIAL LAW.

IN THIS CRISIS
ALL PATRIOTIC
CITIZENS WILL
BE CALLED UPON
TO SET PERSONAL
FEELINGS ASIDE
AND...

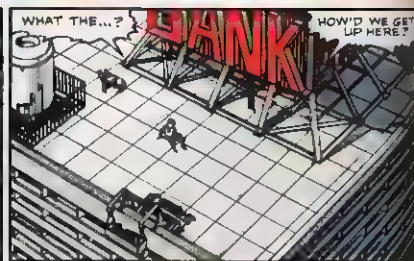
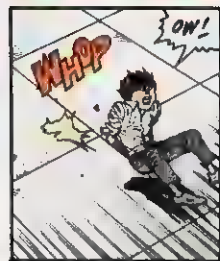
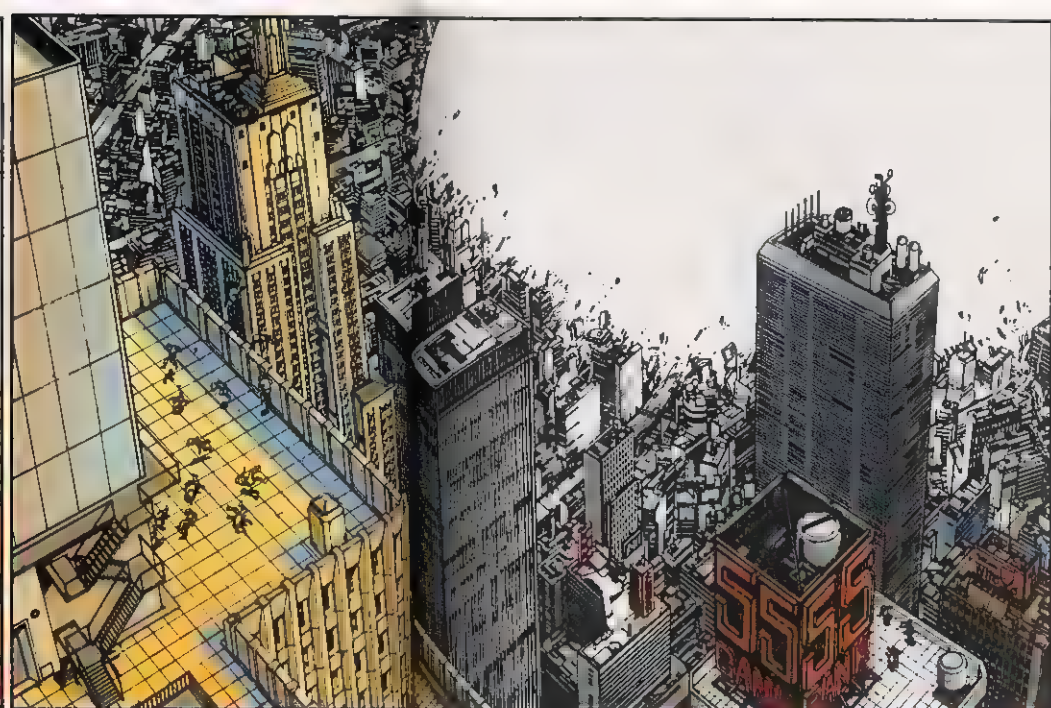
'MORNING
MOMMY!

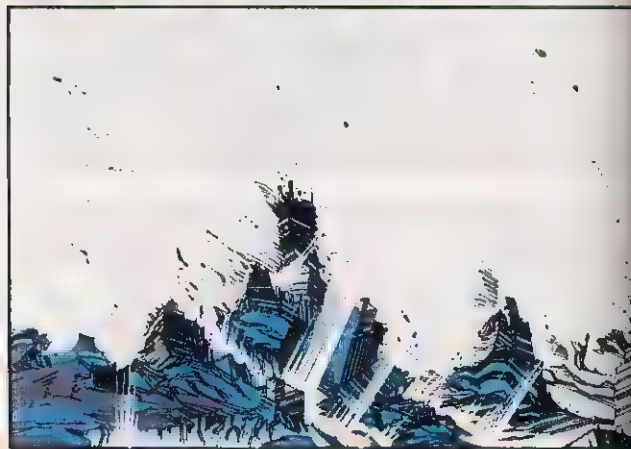
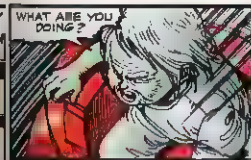
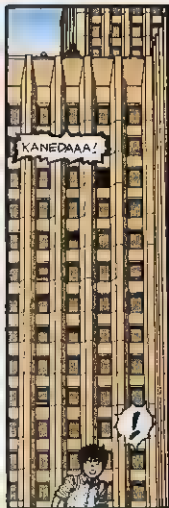
YOU OVERSLEPT
THIS MORNING,
PUMPKIN. GO
WASH YOUR FACE!



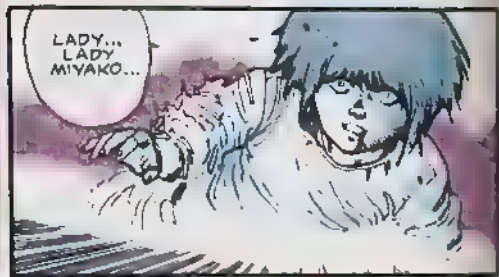
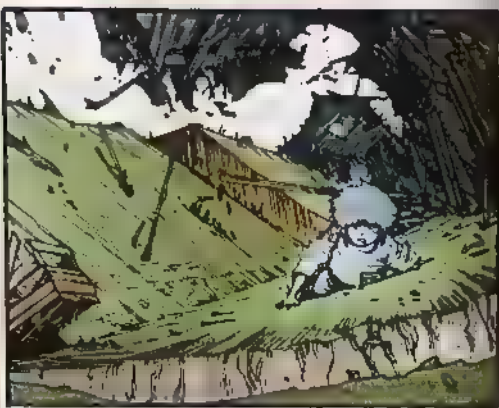


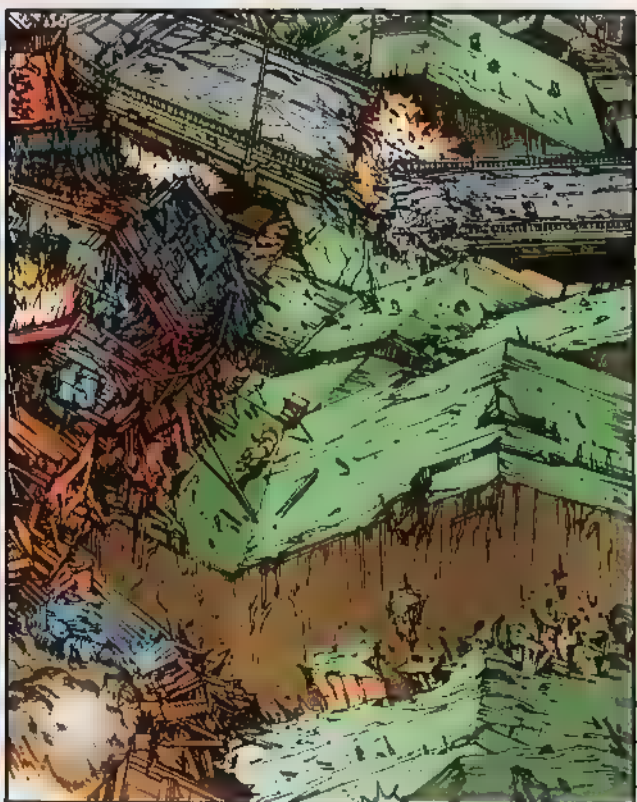
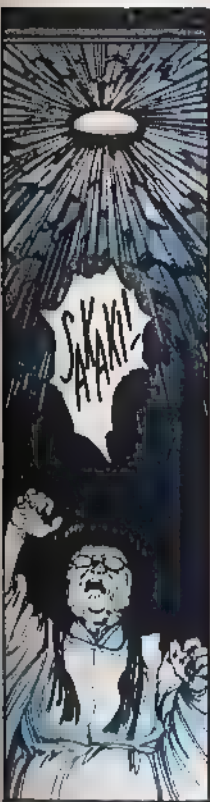
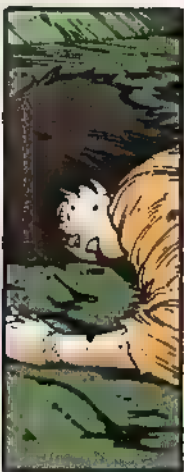
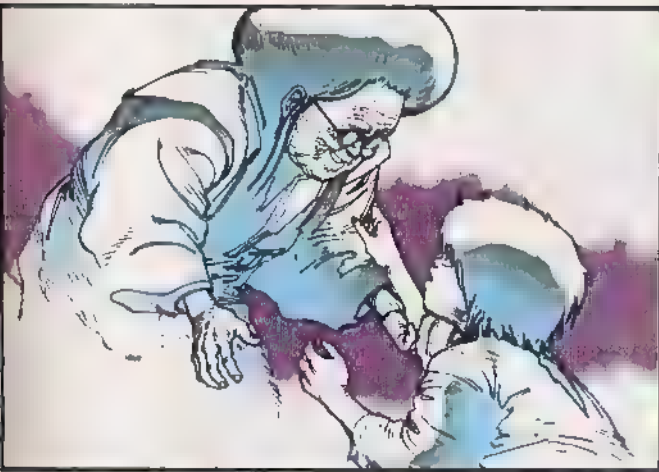


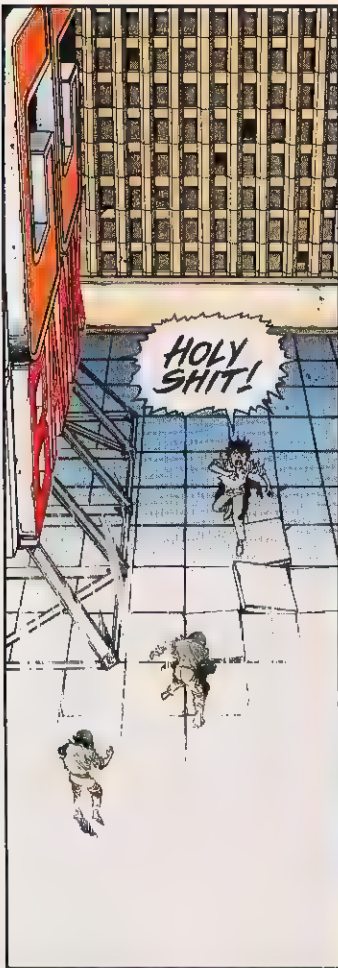


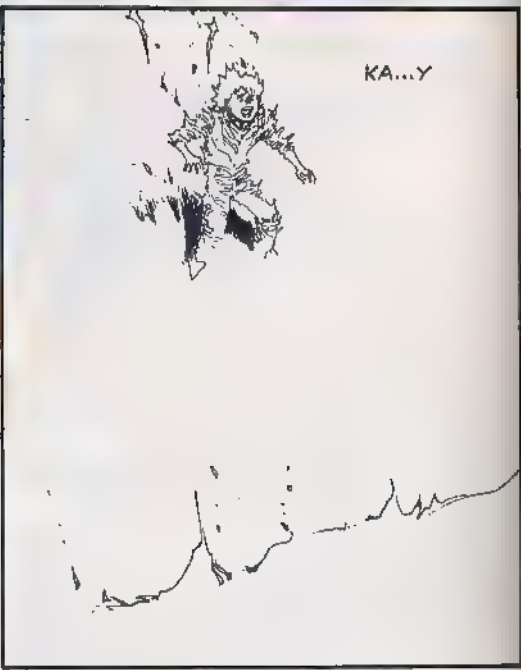


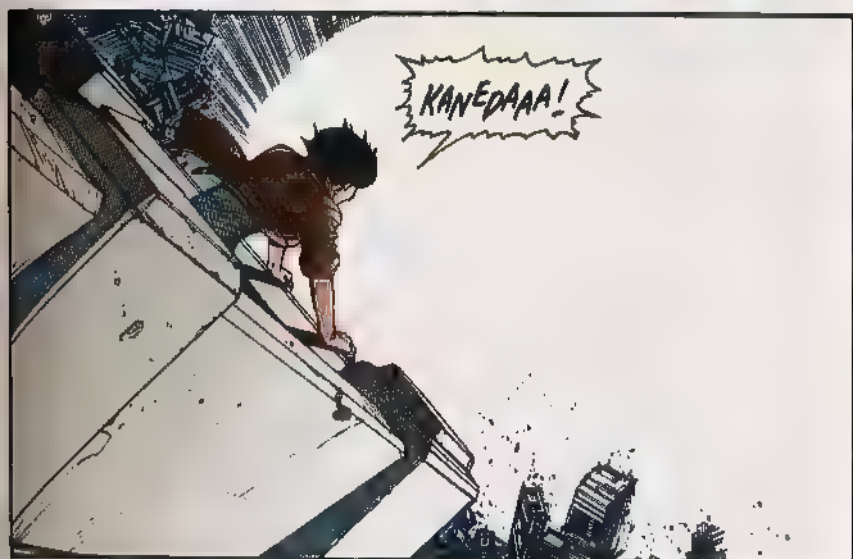
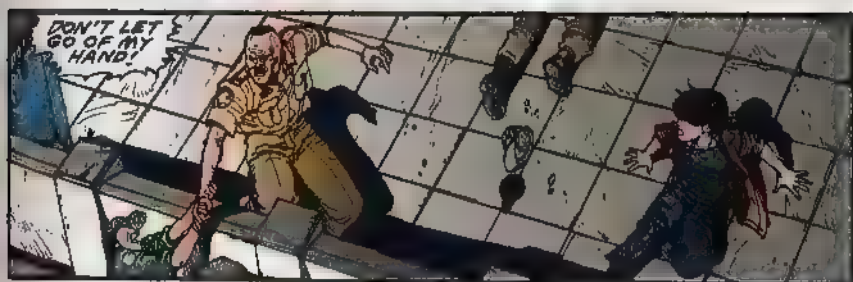
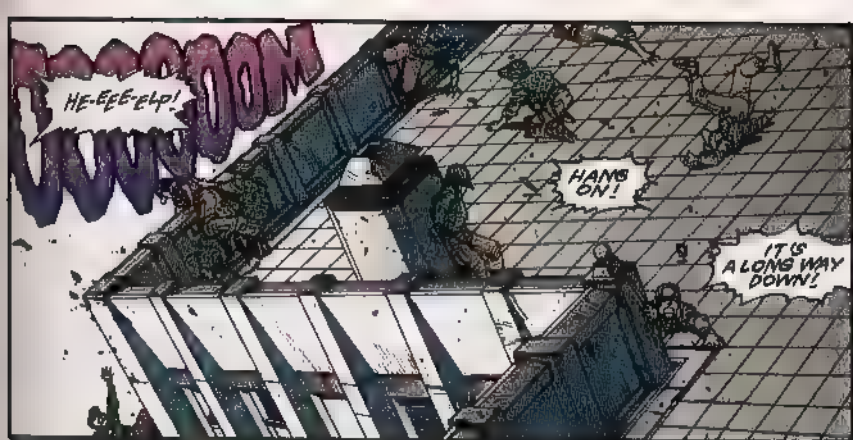


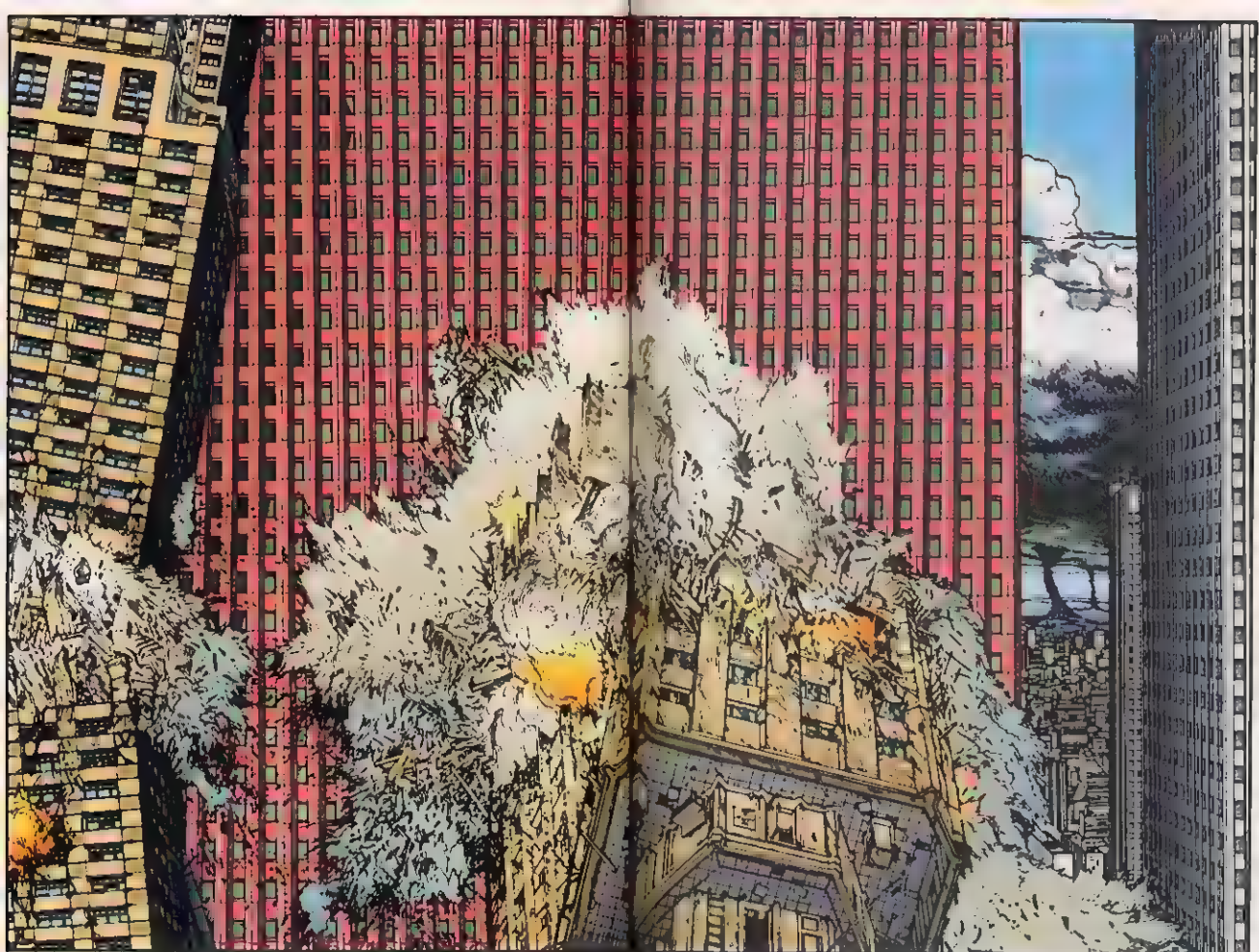




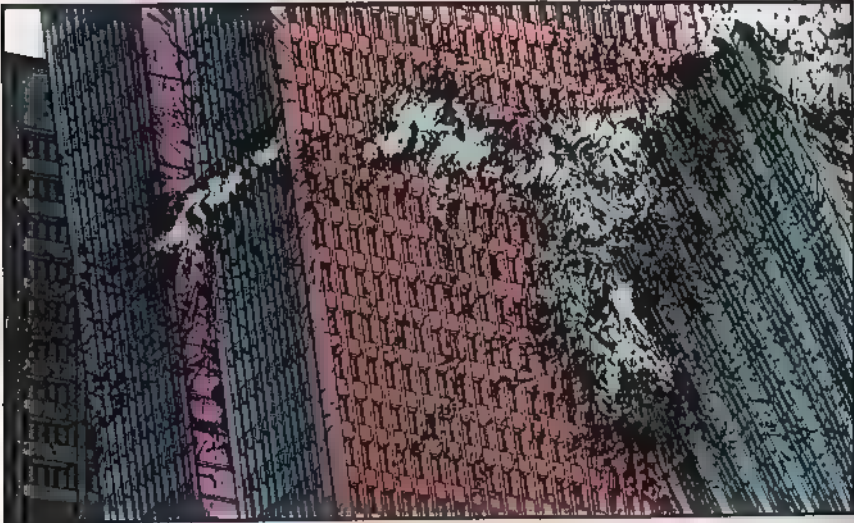






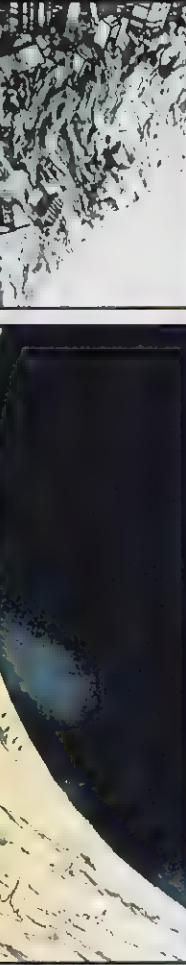
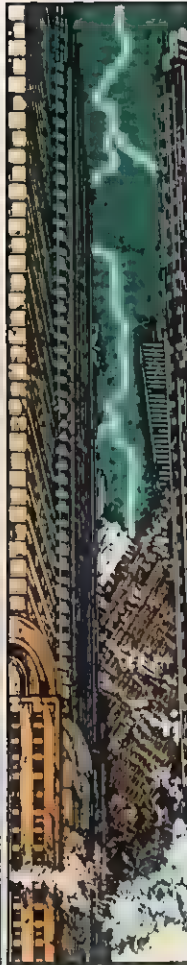
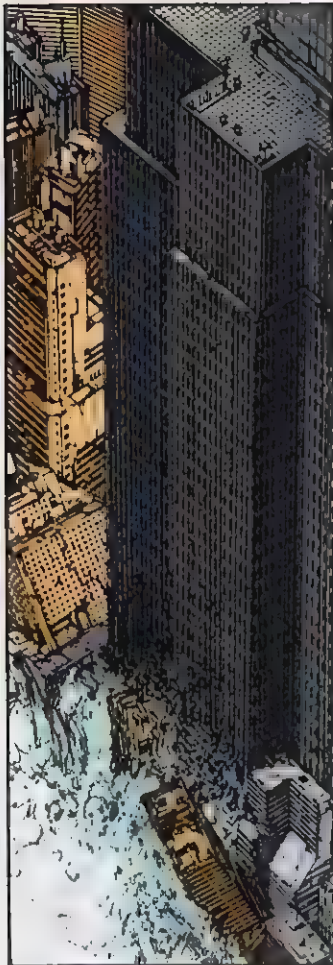


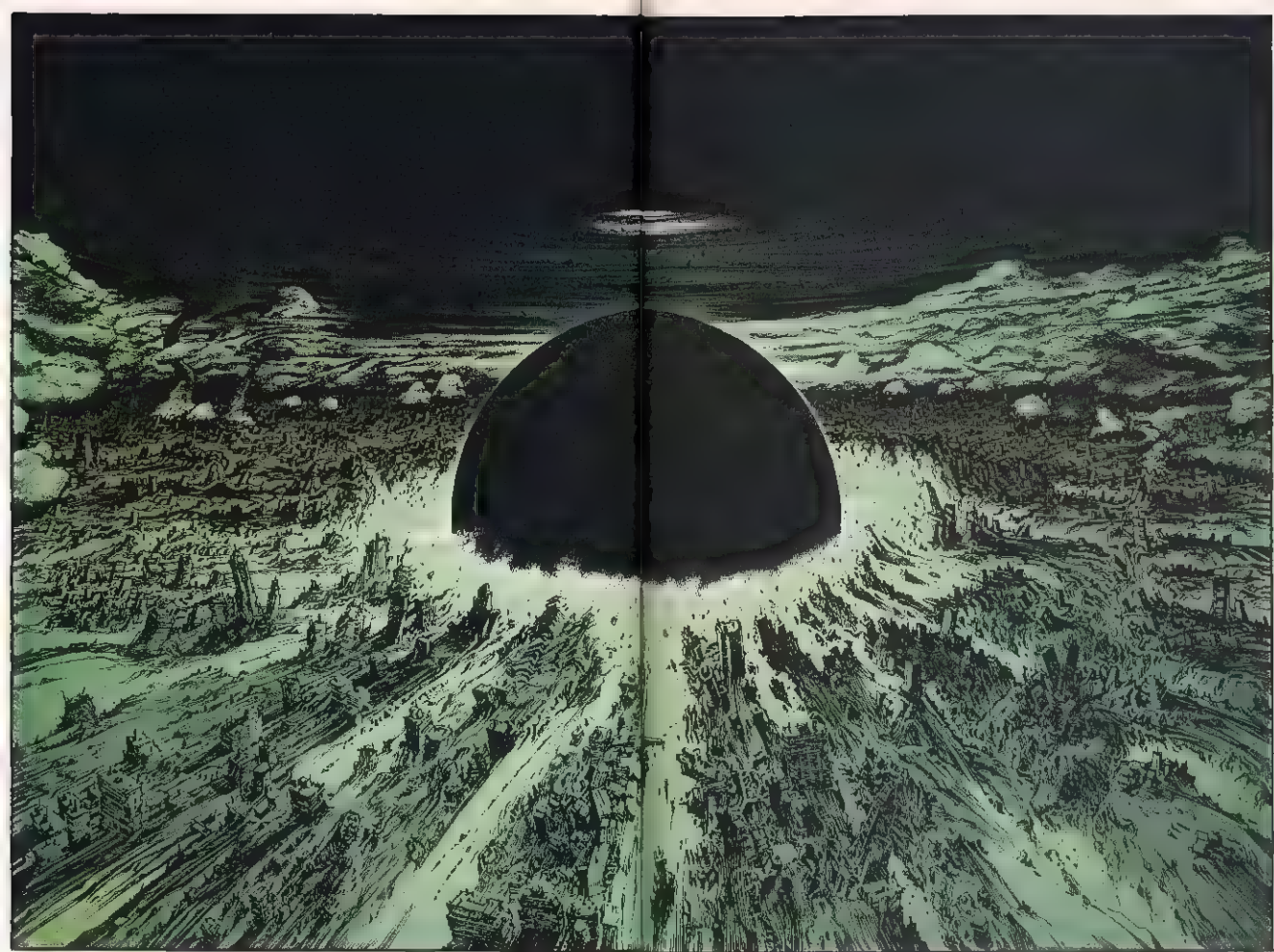
OOOOOHM

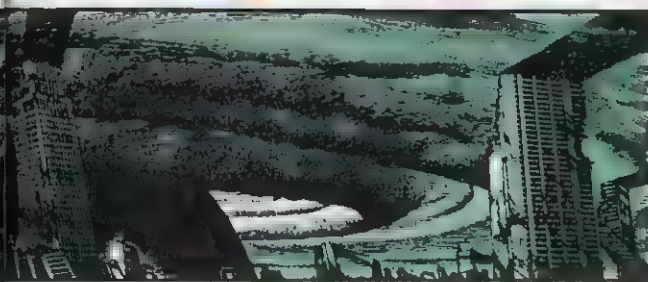
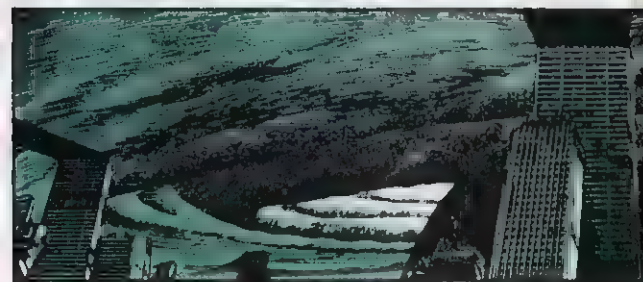
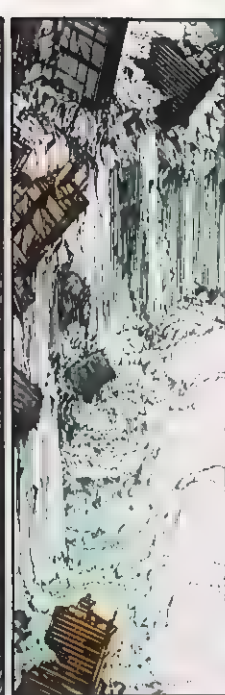
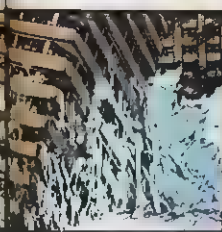
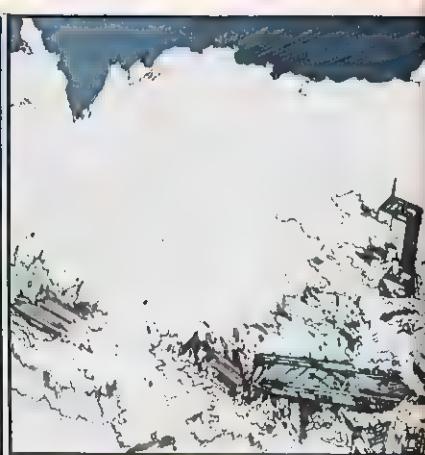
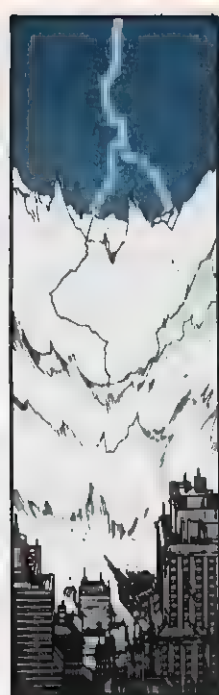


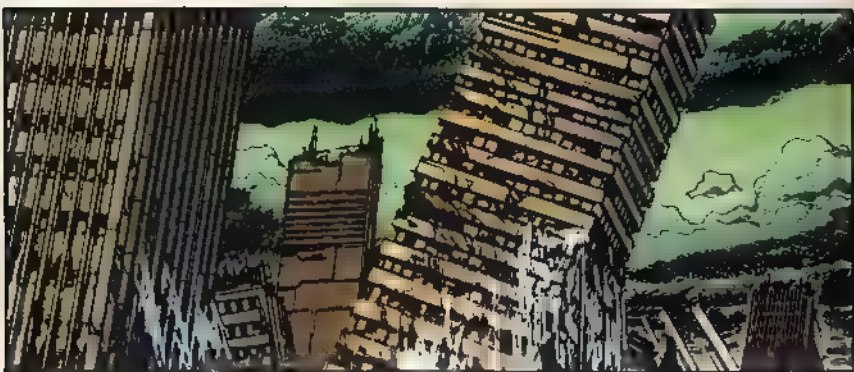
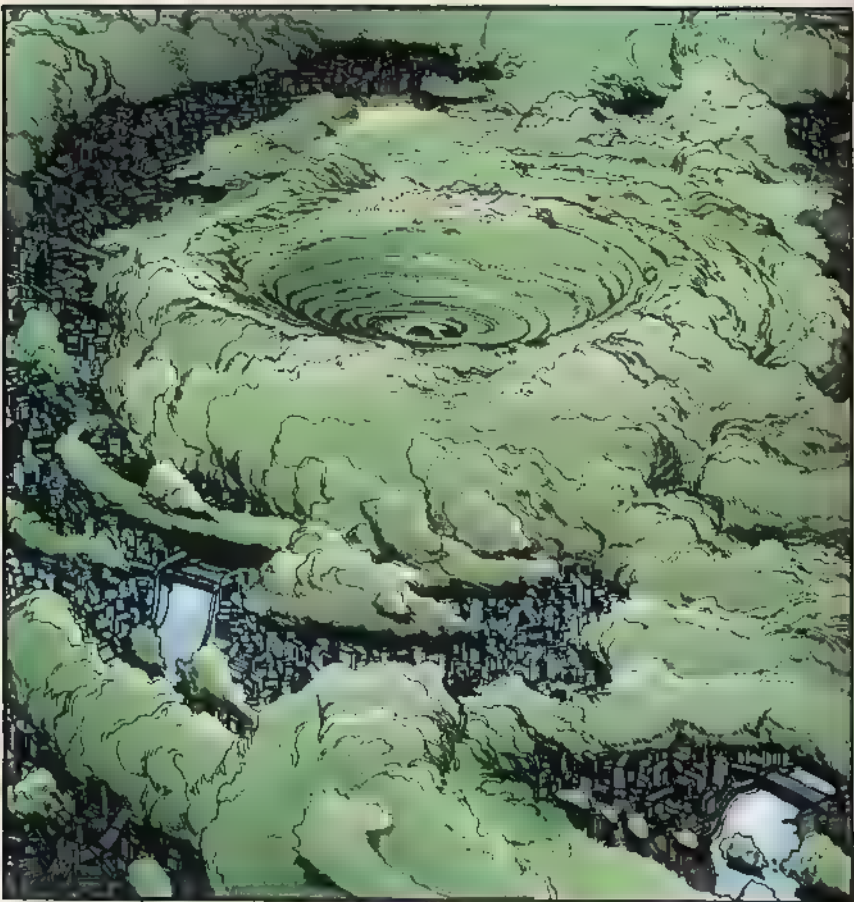


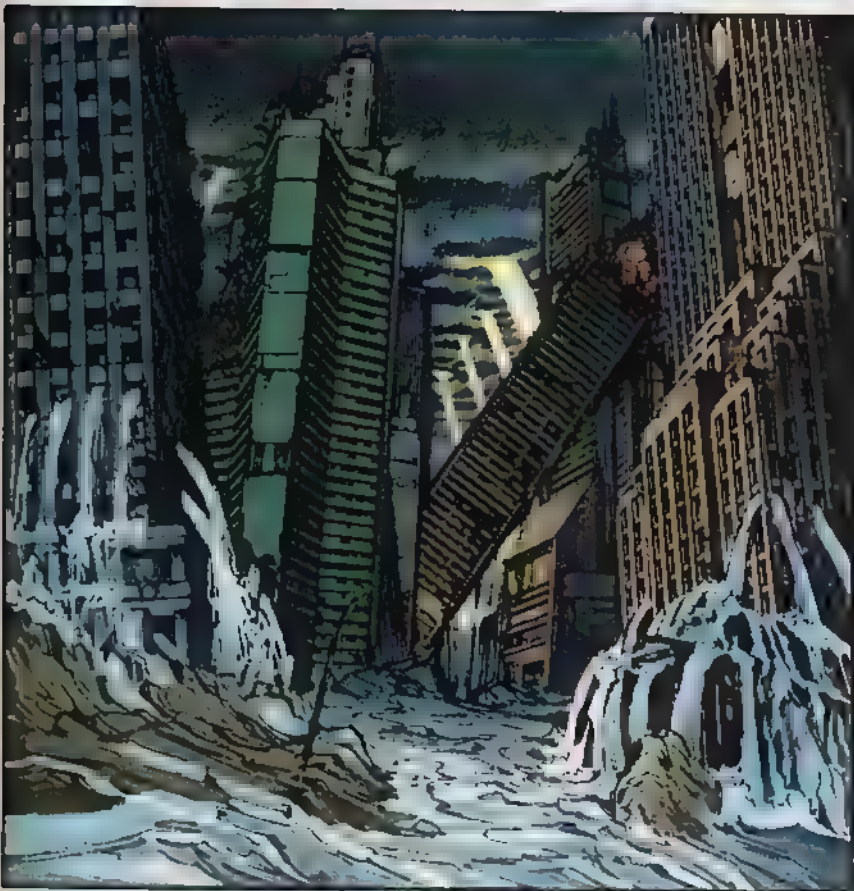
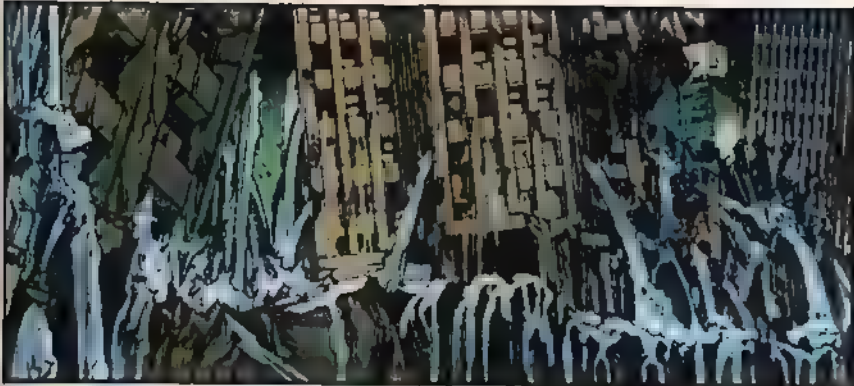


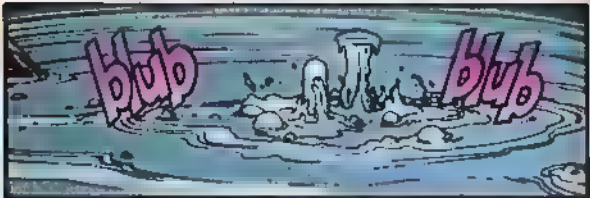


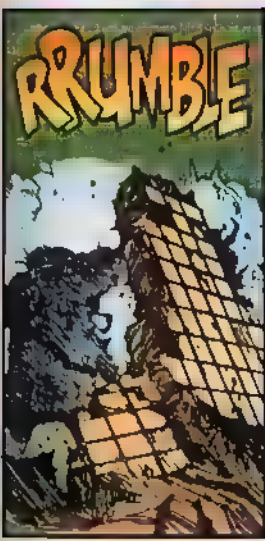
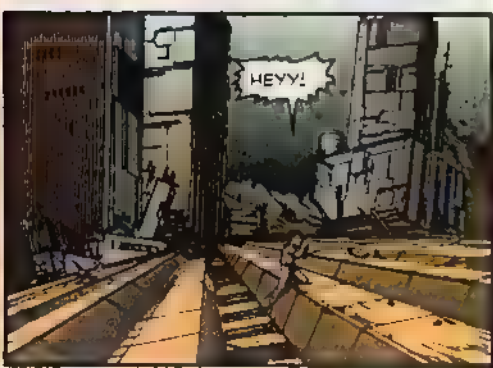


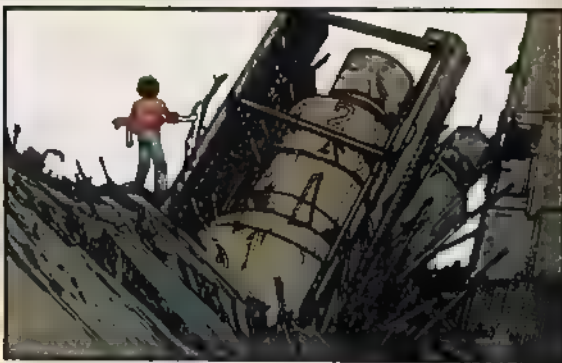
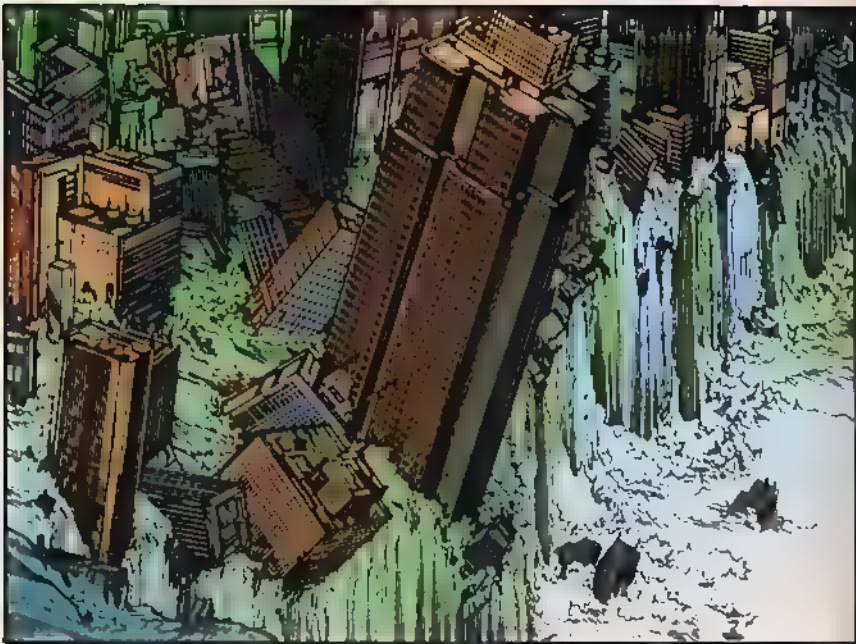


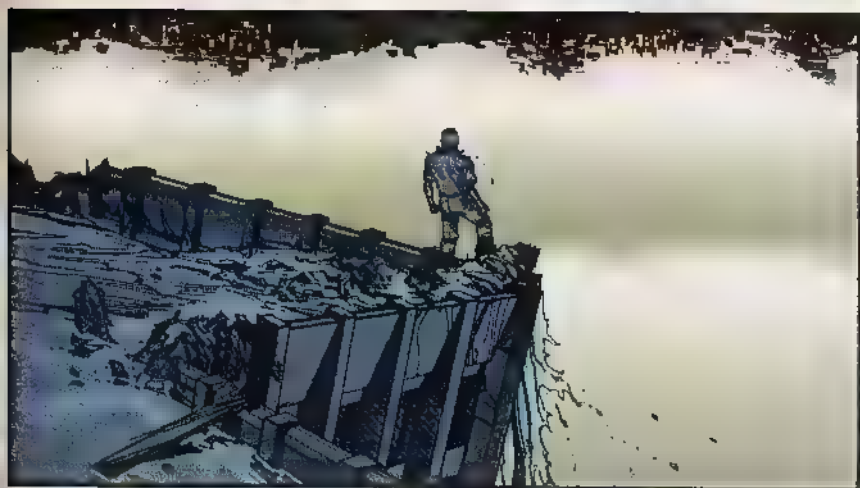
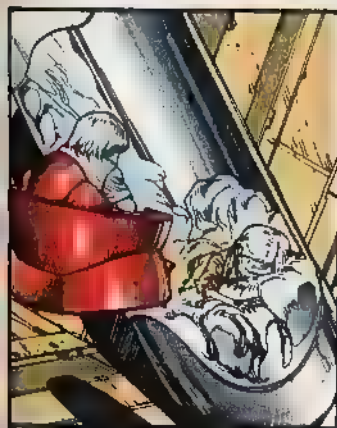
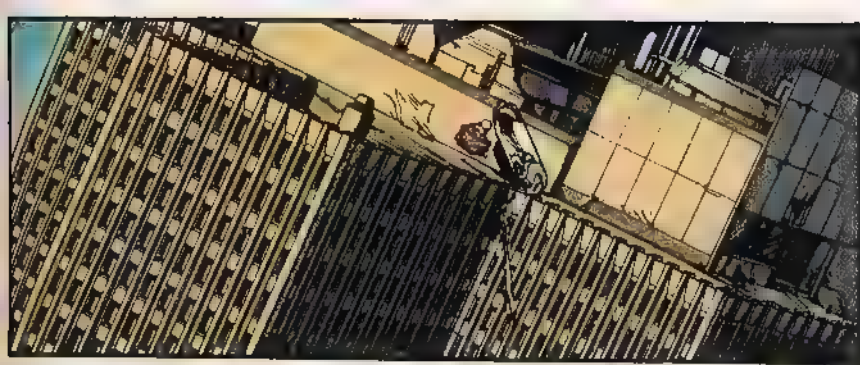


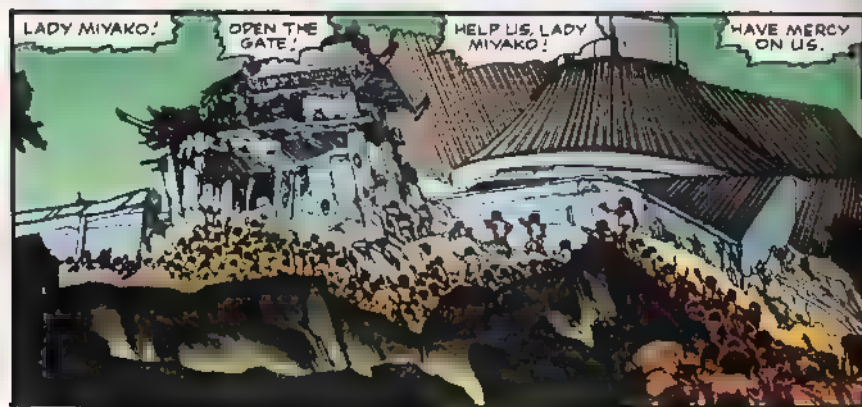
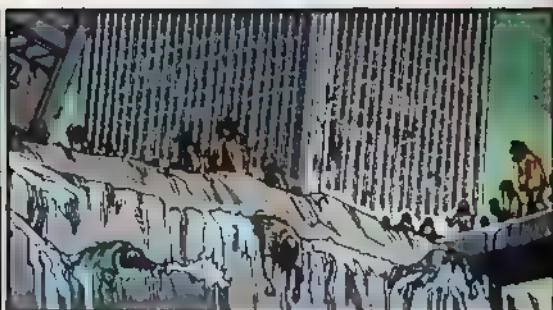
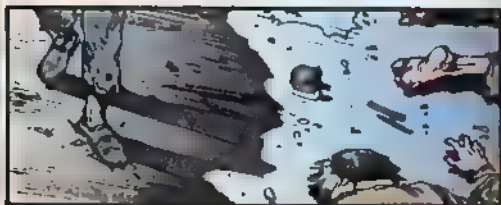
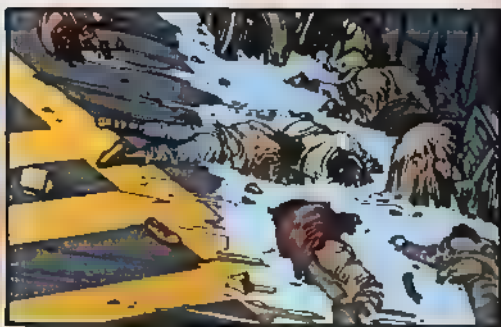


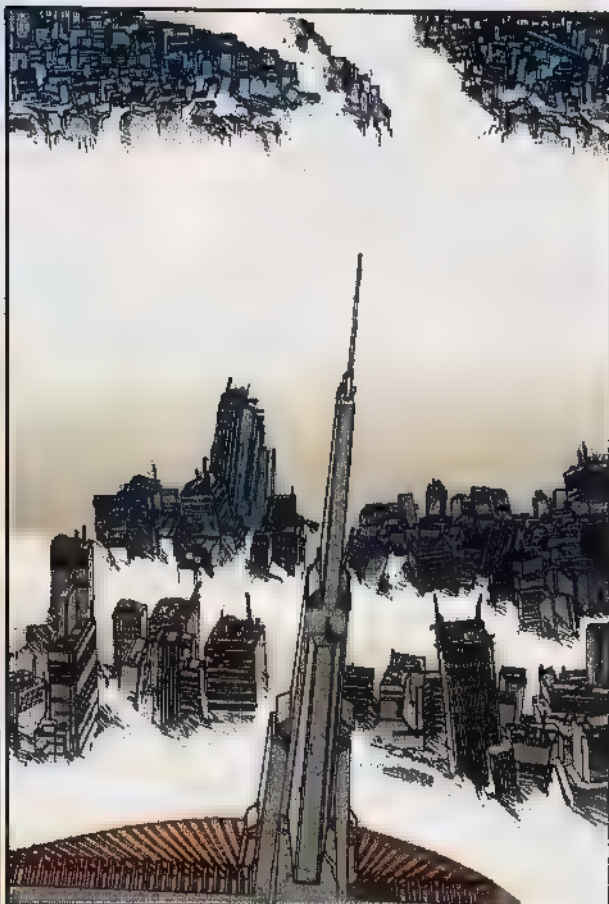
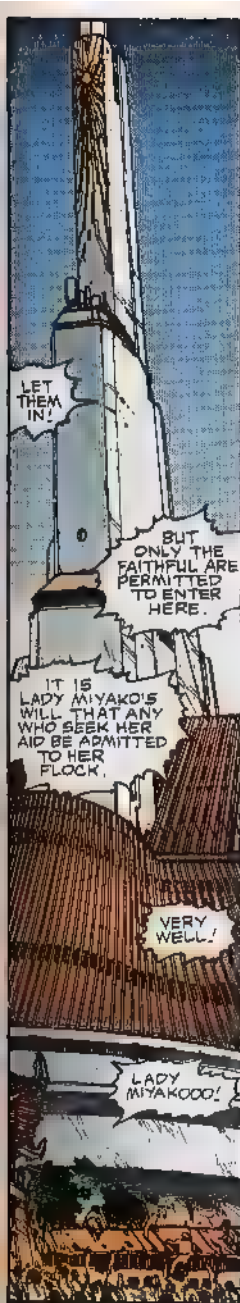


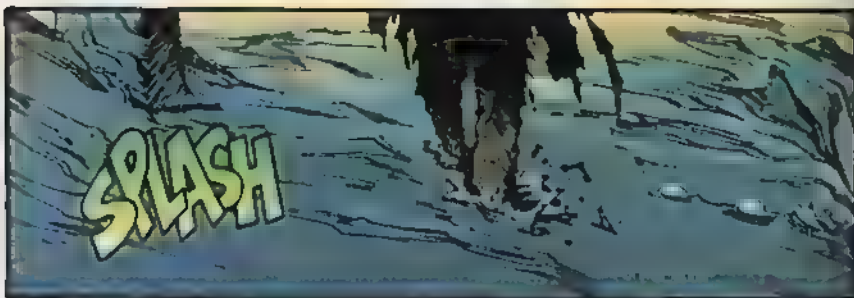
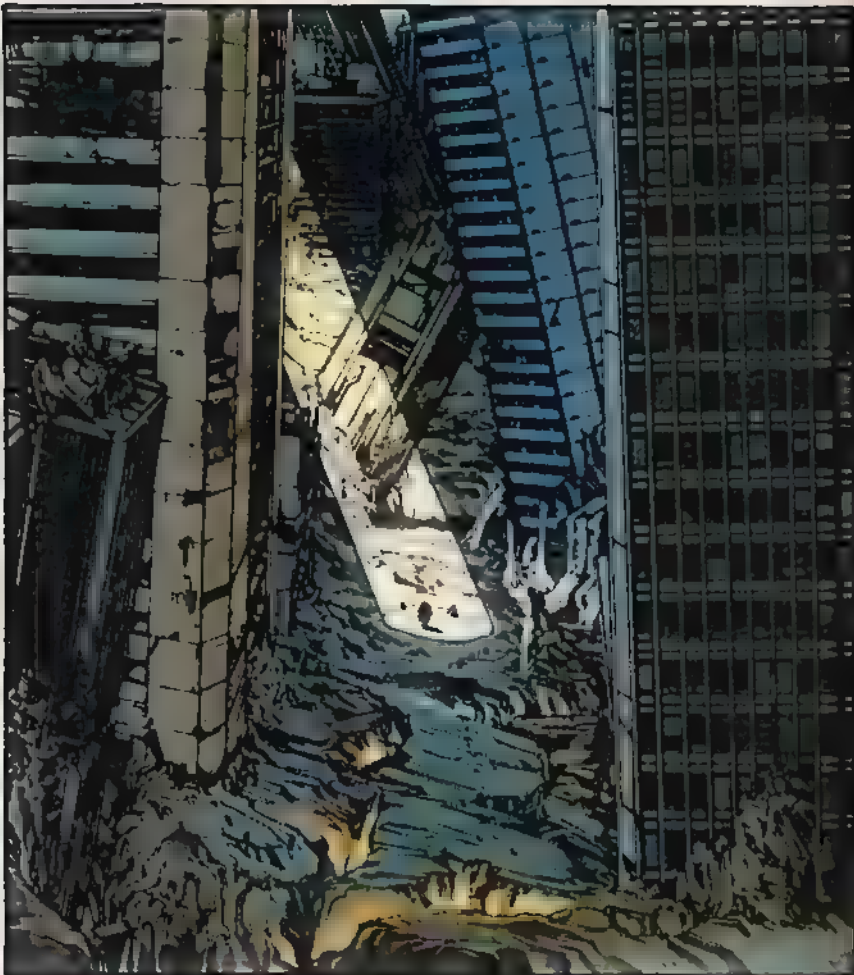


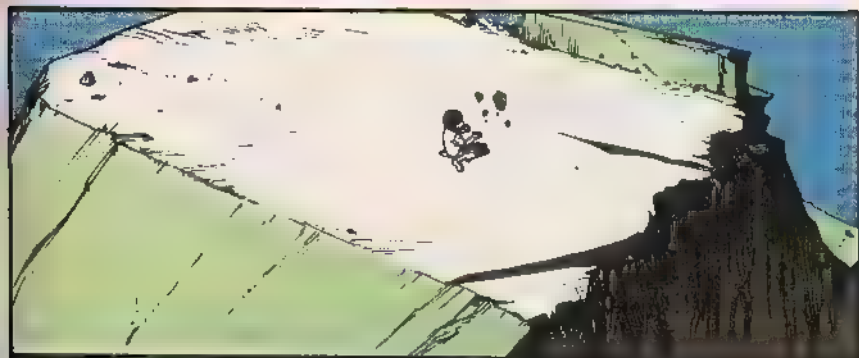
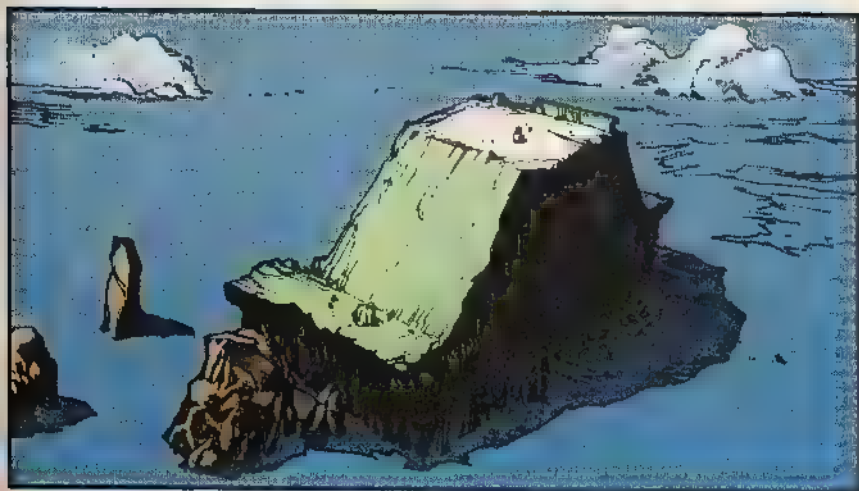
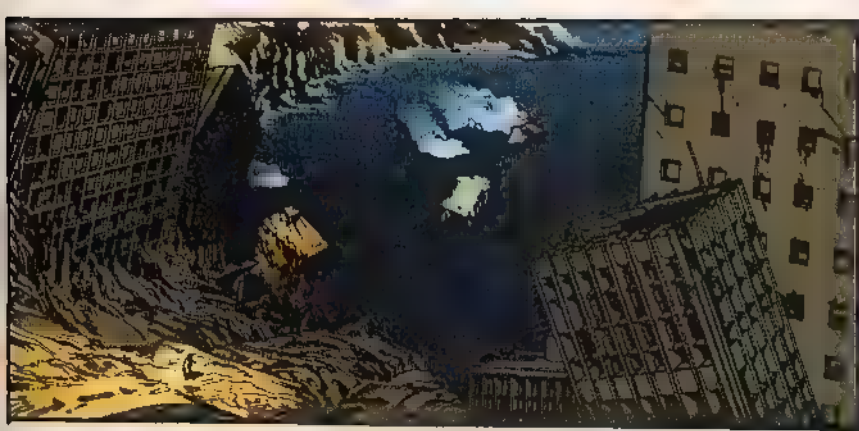


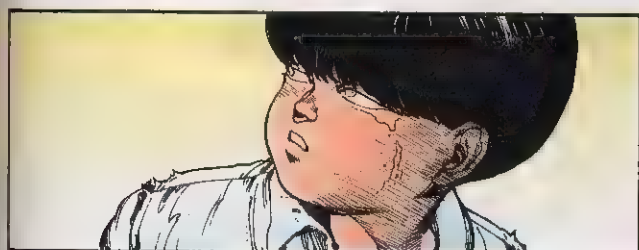
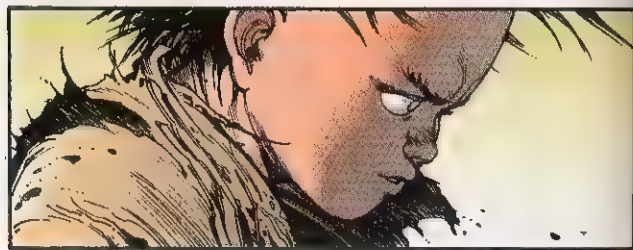














NEXT ISSUE: **EMPEROR OF CHAOS**



COMING SOON TO A THEATER NEAR YOU

One of the most frequently asked questions about **Akira** is "When is the animated movie coming out in the United States?" Although the definite dates for most showings have not yet been set, Epic is proud to announce the limited release of the English-language version of **Akira** in six cities over the 1989 holiday season.

The theme of the film is similar to Epic's **Akira** comic. The storyline, however, has been shortened and thoroughly reconstructed. This allows for a more concise movie, while preserving the suspense element of the comic.

Confirmed showings of **Akira** are as follows:

San Francisco, CA
Roxie Theater

Akira will open approximately
December 26 and play for two weeks.

Berkeley, CA

U.C. Theater

January 12–15.

Washington, D.C.

Biograph Theater

Film will open approximately
December 26 and play for two weeks.

Portland, OR

Cinema 21

December 29–January 4.

Unconfirmed dates include:

Seattle, WA

Neptune Theater

Between the end of December
and mid-January.

Santa Cruz, CA

Sasch Mill Cinema

Between February 15 and 21, 1990.

Akira will probably play Boston and
Los Angeles sometime in January, and
Chicago in the early spring. New
Yorkers can expect to see **Akira** in the
summer of 1990.

Although there are no plans to release
the film on videocassette or broadcast
television for the next year, disappointed
fans who cannot find their hometown
on the previous list needn't worry—
Akira will open in at least 40 other cities
in 1990. We'll keep readers updated.



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